

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF *CASSIDEA*.

By TOM IREDALE.

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THE circumstances surrounding the discovery of the shell here described seem worthy of record. Upon arrival at the Kermadecs inquiry was made of the only settlers on the island as to the shell fauna known to them. Mr. Roy Bell then brought me the specimen figured as having been picked up a few weeks before on the north coast. Ignorant of the Indo-Pacific fauna, it was simply noted as quite new to me, and was preserved, as, though not quite perfect, it was a readily determinable shell, and I have always worked upon the two mottoes, "A shell in the hand is worth fifty in the sea" and

 $\frac{1}{2}$ nat. size.

"An imperfect shell is better than none at all". It was placed on a shelf together with other large dead shells, such as pieces of *Mitra mitra* (Linné), *Alata aratrum* (Martyn), *Charonia rubicunda* (Perry), etc. During the year a few fragments were cast up on the beach, but no more perfect specimen was obtained. Therefore I had been justified in carefully (!) preserving this imperfect shell.

Upon asking Mr. Charles Hedley, in Sydney, what its name might be, my shock can be imagined when his reply was that it was quite unknown to him. He advised me to search at the British Museum, to which place I was bound, but that my Cassid was almost certainly undescribed. His suggestion proved correct, and the species is such a magnificent addition to the unarmed group that I can no longer withhold its nomination.

CASSIDEA ROYANA, n.sp.

Shell large, rather solid, smooth, very broadly ovate. Colour fawn and fawnish-white with broad spiral bands of darker colour, probably deep chocolate in fresh specimens. In the worn specimen described four bands can be distinguished on the last whorl, though all are only obscurely seen, and all placed below the noded shoulder. On the outer lip, which is rolled backwards, these are more clearly marked, whilst a fifth is seen just above the shoulder. Whorls, three only remain, the apex being missing. No spiral sculpture can be discerned, but on the last whorl, which is strongly shouldered, twelve prominent regularly spaced nodules can be counted. No trace of these appears above the shoulder, but below they more or less develop into broad longitudinal ridges, much more distinct on the back than on the face of the shell. On the penultimate sixteen more obscurely marked nodules can be counted, whilst on the antepenultimate whorl, though still present, the shell is too worn to admit of the recognition of the separate nodules. Outer lip expanded and reflected backwards, though a narrow deep canal intervenes between the inrolled outer lip and the whorl itself. Columella smooth, with one marked plication. Inner lip expanded as a callus, and at the anterior extremity reflected, so as to leave a minute perforation. Canal short, broad, little recurved. Length 135, breadth 95 mm.

Hab.—Sunday Island, Kermadec Group.

Type to be presented to the Canterbury Museum, Christchurch, New Zealand.

With this magnificent shell, which needs comparison with none yet described, I associate the name of my friend Mr. Roy Bell, to still further mark my gratitude for his ever-ready help in investigating the molluscan fauna of the Kermadec Group.
